

## FOR NEWPORT NEWS.

Efforts to Secure the Free Mail Delivery Service.

## FACTS ABOUT THE YOUNG CITY.

Its Rapid Growth in Population—Its Prominence in the Foreign-Export Business—Its Great Industries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 11.—(Special.)—Last week Mr. Irwin Tucker, postmaster of the city of Newport News, was in this city on business connected with the Post-Office Department, but it could not be ascertained what was the special object of his mission. It has since transpired, however, that Representative D. Gardner Tyler presented him to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, before whom he made a strong appeal for a free-delivery service for Newport News, setting forth the reasons why that city should have a service under the law. Since this visit and presentation the First Assistant Postmaster-General has referred the matter to the Postmaster-General, and it cannot as yet be learned whether he made any recommendations or not.

Representative Tyler was on an early call at the Post-Office Department to-day, and one of the first who were given an audience by the Postmaster-General. He called especially to urge the claims of Newport News, and did so in an able manner. He presented a tabular statement, showing that since that year the city has been entitled to the free-delivery service; that the postal receipts were in excess of \$100,000; that the average receipts have been more than \$100,000 per annum, and that for the year ending December 31, 1895, the receipts in round numbers reached the sum of \$120,000.

The law providing for free-delivery service requires that the town or city should have a population of 10,000, and \$100,000 in postal receipts, all which Mr. Tyler has been able to establish by Newport News.

This, he says, gives the authority to establish a free-delivery service.

NEWPORT NEWS FIGURES.

The city has increased in population to nearly 12,000, and the largest export port of the city on the Atlantic coast south of Baltimore, having in 1895 shipped from her piers more than \$1,000,000 worth of American products to foreign ports.

In her corporate limits is situated the finest ship-building plant in the United States, in which is invested \$6,000,000, and which gives employment to 2,500 men. Five United States ships are under construction at this yard, besides a number for the merchant marine.

The Great Chesapeake and Ohio trunk-line railroad has regular lines of steamships, which sail for English ports weekly.

On every side, said Representative Tyler, the merit of Newport News is being recognized. He felt sure that his claim for the free-delivery service is unquestioned, and he hoped the Postmaster-General would see the way to granting it. He said the city is a growing city, he said, on the same footing with other cities of the same financial and commercial standing in the world.

In April this service will be extended to twenty cities, but up to the present time Newport News has not been included in the number, though few of them could show such a remarkable record as Newport News.

The Postmaster-General would not give Mr. Tyler any positive promise as to including Newport News in the free-delivery class of cities, but said he would send an inspector there, and, after receiving that official report, would take the matter under consideration.

It is understood that the appropriation for extending this service is too small, and this being a Republican Congress, there is little hope of having it increased.

RELIEF BILLS.

Representative Meredith to-day introduced a bill for the relief of Joseph C. Bodley, providing for the payment to him of \$2,500, due for supplies furnished the United States army during the late war.

He also introduced a bill for the relief of the heirs of Silas Burke, late of Fairfax county, Va., providing for the payment of the sum of \$5,000 for supplies furnished the United States army during the late war.

PERSONAL POINTS.

Dr. Walter C. Murphy, of North Carolina, and Mrs. Mary Staples McNeill, formerly of Virginia, will be married to-morrow by Dr. Hugh Johnston, of the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal church. The wedding will take place at noon at the residence of the bride, in the presence of a few intimate friends.

Mr. F. N. Pike, of Old Point, Va., is in the city, stopping at the Hotel Richmond. He is in town, stopping at the Normandie.

Representative Tyler presented a petition from citizens at Ocean View, Va., asking for the location of a new bridge at that place, and for the purchase of the land on which it is to be built.

Representative Tyler to-day introduced the joint resolution of the Virginia General Assembly asking for the erection of a memorial bridge across the Potomac, connecting Arlington with this city.

ARRIVALS.

The hotel arrivals today included the following: W. H. Fost, Richmond, Va.; L. Cotton, Fredericksburg, Va.; H. K. McCollum, Virginia, National.

E. B. Harrison, Virginia; E. L. Pemberton, North Carolina; J. I. Humbert, Virginia, Metropolitan.

## DIRECTION OF X RAY.

Experiments of Thomas A. Edison to Prove Prof. Roentgen's Theory.

## WORKING ON PRACTICAL TESTS.

## Possibility of Using the Radiation in Cases of Consumption—Photograph of a Gridiron, and the Result Analyzed.

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To accomplish this result he has taken a Geissler tube, exhausted to a medium vacuum, and placed a photographic sensitive plate at right angles to its long diameter. Underneath this plate he has placed his gridiron of different substances.

"I want to see," said Mr. Edison to a reporter yesterday afternoon, "if the Roentgen rays are really perpendicular to the cathode of the Crookes tube, and if the curve between the cathode and the anode in a manner analogous to magnetic rays."

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## PROTECT SONG BIRDS.

AN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

## A Steel Bridge—Not So Hopeful—New Bern's Fish, Oyster, and Game Fair—General Notes.

## RALEIGH, N. C., February 11.—(Special.)—A convict from Granville county arrived at the penitentiary to-day. Twenty were yesterday sent to the new State farm in Anson county, and 100 more will be sent there next Monday.

Governor Carr has received a letter from Tennessee, from the Association for the Preservation of Song Birds, urging him to secure the enactment of a law protecting mocking birds, no saving of present law making birds may be killed between March 1st and November 1st.

The addition of Captain Samuel A. Ashe to show improvement, Dr. George W. Blackwell's condition is critical. He has pleuro-pneumonia.

The Southern railway is building a steel bridge on the North Carolina railway over the Neuse river, near Selma. There was a rumor last night that the Southern would build a line between Clayton and Springhouse, but positive assurances were given that there was no such thing.

The Southern railway has extensive gravel pits at Clayton, and has sent a force of laborers and horses to work there. It is quite on the cards that some day a line may be built direct from Wilson to Tarboro.

This will shorten the distance between Raleigh and Norfolk, and will save the Southern the expense of the route.

MANY ATTORNEYS.

Many attorneys are here to attend the Supreme Court this week. Among them are Messrs. W. W. Stevenson, W. W. Clark, and Charles R. Thomas, New Bern; Francis D. Winston, of Bertie; Donnell Giddens, of Tarboro.

The penitentiary was offered \$100,000 of the farm land near Wadeboro, but it leaves only 220.

H. L. Grant, of Goldsboro, was here to-day. Yesterday he wrote a friend here he was sure of election as Sergeant-at-Arms of the United States Senate. To-day he did not look very hopeful, and said that his friends were somewhat discouraged, the fear apparently being that Senator Butler would not vote for him.

It is learned that the contention of the counsel of Francis Windlow, of the naval reserves, in his suit to test Governor Carr's right to revoke his commission, is that the Governor has no right to revoke the Governor's power to revoke the commission, which is a complete scheme for the government of the militia.